

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 21. (cancelled)

1 22. (new) A piezoelectric lighter, including a
2 casing, a reservoir containing fuel, a valve operable by a
3 user for releasing fuel from the reservoir, a piezoelectric
4 device for generating a spark for igniting the fuel, and at
5 least a first control element,
6 wherein the first control element is normally biased to a
7 rest position and is displaceable by the user in at least a
8 first direction to impart an actuating motion to the
9 piezoelectric device;
10 and further including an intermediate member for transferring
11 the actuating motion from the first control element to the
12 piezoelectric device,
13 together with enabling means operable by the user to move the
14 intermediate member in a second direction from a normal,
15 disabled position, wherein on displacement of the first
16 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
17 is not transferred to operate the piezoelectric device,
18 to an enabled position wherein on displacement of the first
19 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
20 is transferred to operate the piezoelectric device;

21 characterized in that the intermediate member extends from a
22 proximal end to a distal end,
23 the proximal end being located at a fixed point on the first
24 control element so as to be movable together with the first
25 control element in the first direction,
26 the distal end being movable relative to the proximal end in
27 the second direction,
28 and in that the distal end has a first engagement surface and
29 the piezoelectric device includes a second engagement surface,
30 and in use the first engagement surface engages the second
31 engagement surface.

1 23. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 22, characterized in that the intermediate member is
3 formed as a resilient leaf.

1 24. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 22, characterized in that the enabling means is operable
3 to move the intermediate element from the disabled to the
4 enabled position when the first control element is in the rest
5 position, but inoperable to move the intermediate element from
6 the disabled to the enabled position when the first control
7 element is displaced through at least an initial predetermined
8 distance in the first direction.

1 25. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 24, characterized in that the lighter includes first and
3 second blocking surfaces,
4 the first blocking surface forming part of the intermediate
5 member,
6 and in the disabled position of the intermediate member, the
7 first blocking surface is engageable with the second blocking
8 surface by operation of the enabling means after displacement
9 of the first control element through the predetermined
10 distance
11 so as to prevent movement of the intermediate member from the
12 disabled to the enabled position.

1 26. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 24, characterized in that at least a first and a second
3 engagement surface are substantially in abutment when the
4 intermediate member is in the enabled position and the first
5 control element is in the rest position,
6 such that the predetermined distance corresponds to a
7 negligible movement of the first control element in the first
8 direction.

1 27. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 22, characterized in that disengagement means are
3 provided for urging the intermediate member towards the
4 disabled position when the first control element is displaced
5 in the first direction.

1 28. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 22, characterized in that the enabling means bears
3 slidably on the intermediate member.

1 29. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 22, characterized in that the enabling means comprises a
3 second control element separate from the first control
4 element, and the first and second control elements are spaced
5 apart such that they cannot be operated together by a single
6 digit of a user.

1 30. (new) A piezoelectric lighter, including a
2 casing, a reservoir containing fuel, a valve operable by a
3 user for releasing fuel from the reservoir, a piezoelectric
4 device for generating a spark for igniting the fuel, and at
5 least a first control element,
6 wherein the first control element is normally biased to a
7 rest position and is displaceable by the user in at least a

8 first direction to impart an actuating motion to the
9 piezoelectric device;
10 and further including an intermediate member for transferring
11 the actuating motion from the first control element to the
12 piezoelectric device,
13 together with enabling means operable by the user to move the
14 intermediate member in a second direction from a normal,
15 disabled position, wherein on displacement of the first
16 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
17 is not transferred to operate the piezoelectric device,
18 to an enabled position wherein on displacement of the first
19 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
20 is transferred to operate the piezoelectric device;
21 characterized in that the intermediate member extends from a
22 proximal end to a distal end,
23 the proximal end being located at a fixed point on a part of
24 the piezoelectric device so as to be movable together with the
25 part of the piezoelectric device in the first direction,
26 the distal end being movable relative to the proximal end in
27 the second direction,
28 and in that the distal end has a first engagement surface and
29 the first control element includes a second engagement
30 surface,

31 and in use the first engagement surface engages the second
32 engagement surface.

1 31. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 30, characterized in that the intermediate member is
3 formed as a resilient leaf.

1 32. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 30, characterized in that the enabling means is operable
3 to move the intermediate element from the disabled to the
4 enabled position when the first control element is in the rest
5 position, but inoperable to move the intermediate element from
6 the disabled to the enabled position when the first control
7 element is displaced through at least an initial predetermined
8 distance in the first direction.

1 33. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 32, characterized in that the lighter includes first and
3 second blocking surfaces,
4 the first blocking surface forming part of the intermediate
5 member,
6 and in the disabled position of the intermediate member, the
7 first blocking surface is engageable with the second blocking
8 surface by operation of the enabling means after displacement

9 of the first control element through the predetermined
10 distance
11 so as to prevent movement of the intermediate member from the
12 disabled to the enabled position.

1 34. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 32, characterized in that at least a first and a second
3 engagement surface are substantially in abutment when the
4 intermediate member is in the enabled position and the first
5 control element is in the rest position,
6 such that the predetermined distance corresponds to a
7 negligible movement of the first control element in the first
8 direction.

1 35. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 30, characterized in that disengagement means are
3 provided for urging the intermediate member towards the
4 disabled position when the first control element is displaced
5 in the first direction.

1 36. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 30, characterized in that the enabling means bears
3 slidably on the intermediate member.

4 37. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
5 claim 30, characterized in that the enabling means comprises a
6 second control element separate from the first control
7 element, and the first and second control elements are spaced
8 apart such that they cannot be operated together by a single
9 digit of a user.

1 38. (new) A piezoelectric lighter, including a
2 casing, a reservoir containing fuel, a valve operable by a
3 user for releasing fuel from the reservoir, a piezoelectric
4 device for generating a spark for igniting the fuel, and at
5 least a first control element,
6 wherein the first control element is normally biased to a
7 rest position and is displaceable by the user in at least a
8 first direction to impart an actuating motion to the
9 piezoelectric device;
10 and further including an intermediate member for transferring
11 the actuating motion from the first control element to the
12 piezoelectric device,
13 together with enabling means operable by the user to move the
14 intermediate member in a second direction from a normal,
15 disabled position, wherein on displacement of the first
16 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
17 is not transferred to operate the piezoelectric device,

18 to an enabled position wherein on displacement of the first
19 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
20 is transferred to operate the piezoelectric device;
21 characterized in that the intermediate member is a separate
22 element mounted independently of the first control element and
23 of the piezoelectric device for translational movement in the
24 second direction between the disabled position and the enabled
25 position,
26 the intermediate member having two first engagement surfaces
27 and the first control element and the piezoelectric device
28 having each respectively a second engagement surface,
29 wherein in use, in the enabled position the first engagement
30 surfaces engage each respectively of the second engagement
31 surfaces,
32 and in the disabled position the first engagement surfaces
33 engage neither of the second engagement surfaces.

1 39. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 38, characterized in that the enabling means is operable
3 to move the intermediate element from the disabled to the
4 enabled position when the first control element is in the rest
5 position, but inoperable to move the intermediate element from
6 the disabled to the enabled position when the first control

7 element is displaced through at least an initial predetermined
8 distance in the first direction.

1 40. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 39, characterized in that the lighter includes first and
3 second blocking surfaces,
4 the first blocking surface forming part of the intermediate
5 member,
6 and in the disabled position of the intermediate member, the
7 first blocking surface is engageable with the second blocking
8 surface by operation of the enabling means after displacement
9 of the first control element through the predetermined
10 distance
11 so as to prevent movement of the intermediate member from the
12 disabled to the enabled position.

1 41. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 39, characterized in that at least a first and a second
3 engagement surface are substantially in abutment when the
4 intermediate member is in the enabled position and the first
5 control element is in the rest position,
6 such that the predetermined distance corresponds to a
7 negligible movement of the first control element in the first
8 direction.

1 42. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 38, characterized in that disengagement means are
3 provided for urging the intermediate member towards the
4 disabled position when the first control element is displaced
5 in the first direction.

1 43. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 38, characterized in that the enabling means bears
3 slidably on the intermediate member.

1 44. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 38, characterized in that the enabling means comprises a
3 second control element separate from the first control
4 element, and the first and second control elements are spaced
5 apart such that they cannot be operated together by a single
6 digit of a user.

1 45. (new) A piezoelectric lighter, including a
2 casing, a reservoir containing fuel, at least a first control
3 element, and two operating components operable by a user,
4 the operating components comprising a valve for releasing fuel
5 from the reservoir and a piezoelectric spark generating device
6 for igniting the fuel,

7 wherein the first control element is normally biased to a
8 rest position and is displaceable by the user in at least a
9 first direction to impart an actuating motion to at least one
10 the operating component;
11 and further including engagement means for transferring the
12 actuating motion from the first control element to the at
13 least one operating component,
14 together with enabling means operable by the user to set the
15 engagement means from a normal, disabled condition, wherein on
16 displacement of the first control element in the first
17 direction, the actuating motion is not transferred to operate
18 the at least one operating component,
19 to an enabled condition wherein on displacement of the first
20 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
21 is transferred to operate the at least one operating
22 component;
23 characterized in that the engagement means include a first
24 frictional engagement surface
25 and there is provided a second frictional engagement surface,
26 wherein in the disabled condition the frictional engagement
27 surfaces are arranged so as to move past each other when the
28 first control element is displaced in the first direction,
29 and the enabling means are operable to engage the frictional
30 engagement surfaces together in a plurality of positions

31 corresponding to the progressive displacement of the first
32 control element in the first direction.

1 46. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 45, characterized in that the engagement means comprise
3 an intermediate member, and the first frictional engagement
4 surface is formed on the intermediate member,
5 and the enabling means bears slidably on the intermediate
6 member.

1 47. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 45, characterized in that stop means are provided for
3 limiting movement of the first control element in the first
4 direction so as to define a maximum distance (M) of
5 displacement thereof;
6 and further characterized in that the at least one operating
7 component is inoperable by an actuating motion substantially
8 shorter than the maximum distance (M) of displacement of the
9 first control element;
10 wherein during operation of the first control element, the
11 distance between the first control element and the at least
12 one operating component is proportional to a force applied to
13 the enabling means by the user, such that when insufficient

14 force is applied to the enabling means the at least one
15 operating component is not actuated.

1 48. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 45, characterized in that the enabling means comprises a
3 second control element separate from the first control
4 element, and the first and second control elements are spaced
5 apart such that they cannot be operated together by a single
6 digit of a user.

1 49. (new) A piezoelectric lighter, including a
2 casing, a reservoir containing fuel, at least a first control
3 element, and two operating components operable by a user,
4 the operating components comprising a valve for releasing fuel
5 from the reservoir and a piezoelectric spark generating device
6 for igniting the fuel,
7 wherein the first control element is normally biased to a
8 rest position and is displaceable by the user in at least a
9 first direction to impart an actuating motion to at least one
10 the operating component;
11 and further including an intermediate member for transferring
12 the actuating motion from the first control element to the at
13 least one operating component,

14 together with enabling means operable by the user to set the
15 intermediate member from a normal, disabled condition, wherein
16 on displacement of the first control element in the first
17 direction, the actuating motion is not transferred to operate
18 the at least one operating component,
19 to an enabled condition wherein on displacement of the first
20 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
21 is transferred to operate the at least one operating
22 component;
23 characterized in that the intermediate member includes first
24 and second ends operatively connected respectively with the
25 first control element and the at least one operating
26 component, and an intermediate section disposed between the
27 first and second ends,
28 and the intermediate section is flexible so as to define a
29 variable distance of separation between the first and second
30 ends,
31 wherein in the disabled condition the distance of separation
32 between the first and second ends is reducible by displacement
33 of the intermediate section in a second direction,
34 and in the enabled condition the displacement of the
35 intermediate section is restrained in the second direction
36 during movement of the intermediate member in the direction of
37 the actuating motion.

1 50. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 49, characterized in that the first and second ends are
3 pivotably attached respectively to the first control element
4 and to the at least one operating component,
5 and the intermediate section includes a pivotable joint.

1 51. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to claim
2 49, characterized in that stop means are provided for limiting
3 movement of the first control element in the first direction
4 so as to define a maximum distance (M) of displacement
5 thereof;
6 and further characterized in that the at least one operating
7 component is inoperable by an actuating motion substantially
8 shorter than the maximum distance (M) of displacement of the
9 first control element;
10 wherein during operation of the first control element, the
11 distance between the first control element and the at least
12 one operating component is proportional to a force applied to
13 the enabling means by the user, such that when insufficient
14 force is applied to the enabling means the at least one
15 operating component is not actuated.

1 52. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 49, characterized in that the enabling means bears
3 slidingly on the intermediate member.

4 53. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
5 claim 49, characterized in that the enabling means comprises a
6 second control element separate from the first control
7 element, and the first and second control elements are spaced
8 apart such that they cannot be operated together by a single
9 digit of a user.

1 54. (new) A piezoelectric lighter, including a
2 casing, a reservoir containing fuel, at least a first control
3 element, and two operating components operable by a user,
4 the operating components comprising a valve for releasing fuel
5 from the reservoir and a piezoelectric spark generating device
6 for igniting the fuel,
7 wherein the first control element is normally biased to a
8 rest position and is displaceable by the user in at least a
9 first direction to impart an actuating motion to at least one
10 the operating component;
11 and further including enabling means operable by the user to
12 set the lighter from a normal, disabled condition, wherein on
13 displacement of the first control element in the first

14 direction, the actuating motion is not transferred to operate
15 the at least one operating component,
16 to an enabled condition wherein on displacement of the first
17 control element in the first direction, the actuating motion
18 is transferred to operate the at least one operating
19 component;
20 characterized in that the lighter is set to the enabled
21 condition by continuous operation of the enabling means during
22 displacement of the first control element in the first
23 direction,
24 and in that there are provided disengagement means,
25 wherein when the operation of the enabling means is
26 interrupted during displacement of the first control element
27 in the first direction the disengagement means return the
28 lighter to the disabled condition.

1 55. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 54, characterized in that when the lighter is returned
3 to the disabled condition by the disengagement means, the
4 lighter cannot be reset to the enabled condition until the
5 first control element is returned to the rest position.

1 56. (new) A piezoelectric lighter according to
2 claim 54, characterized in that the enabling means is operable
3 to set the lighter from the disabled to the enabled condition
4 when the first control element is in the rest position, but
5 inoperable to set the lighter from the disabled to the enabled
6 condition when the first control element is displaced through
7 at least an initial predetermined distance in the first
8 direction.